



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

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Nighttime Park Programs Offer Illuminating Experiences

Most Fairfax County residents only experience their parks by the light of day. However, after everyone has gone home and the sun has set, the parks come alive as timid animals emerge from hiding to search for food. The darkened parks that provide protection for wildlife are also wonderful places for stargazing. This February, join the Fairfax County Park Authority for a soothing winter night hike, or let your mind wander the universe at a night sky festival.

Take advantage of winter's crisp, clean air and attend the Night Sky Festival on Saturday, February 9 at Riverbend Park's Visitor Center from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Look at stars through a telescope and listen to ancient stories about the constellations. A campfire will keep you warm and hot chocolate, tea, coffee and snacks will be available for purchase. The cost is \$5 per person. For more information, call 703-759-9018. Riverbend Park is located at 8700 Potomac Hills Street in Great Falls.

Savor the silence of the woods on a nighttime hike over wooded terrain at Lake Accotink Park from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Search and listen for owls and other creatures of the night. This program is suited for adults and children ages seven and older and is being offered on both Friday, February 15 and Saturday, February 16. Dress for the weather, bring a flashlight and meet at the park's visitor center. The cost is \$5 per adult and \$3 for children under 16. To make a reservation, call 703-569-0285. Lake Accotink Park is located at 7500 Accotink Park Road in Springfield.

Learn about nocturnal predators during an enjoyable night hike at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park on Saturday, February 16 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Listen to taped calls of owls and coyotes and try to catch a glimpse of them in the forest. Afterwards, return to our campfire for hot chocolate and marshmallow roasting. Reservations are required. The cost is \$10 per family. The hike begins at the Walney Visitor Center. To reserve, call 703-631-0013. Ellanor C. Lawrence Park is located at 5040 Walney Road in Chantilly.

Visit the Park Authority online for a listing of activities at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/>.

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Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations, call 703-324-8563 or TTY 703-803-3354. Please allow ten working days in advance of events in order to make the necessary arrangements.